

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Screening of Mail by Security Police/Unsuccessful
Revolt Against Present Government/Criticism of
Radio Free Europe

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in Prague, at Lutzova 15, near the Masaryk Railroad Station, the government maintains some sort of a secret police station for the screening of foreign mail. (Lutzova has been renamed by the Communists _____)

_____ officials of this organization have developed a new method for opening mail without detection.

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the main purpose of this police station was to keep a list of Czech nationals who received letters from abroad so that the emphasis in opening mail was on incoming letters rather than outgoing.

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3. [] on 7 Mar 49, an unsuccessful revolt against the Communist government was staged by certain Czechoslovak army officers under the leadership of a General (fnu) Prikryl. The revolt resulted in the arrest [] of some 600 army officers, and 60 colonels and four generals were executed.

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4. [] one criticism of Radio Free Europe (RFE). Apparently the station receives letters from Czechoslovak nationals denouncing officials of Czech prisons for harsh treatment and other reasons. These denunciations [] are then incorporated into RFE programs beamed to Czechoslovakia. [] such denunciations should be checked carefully before they were broadcast since [] many of the people who had been denounced actually had been most helpful to jailed Czech political prisoners and that whatever harsh actions they had taken were merely to assure their superiors of their loyalty to the regime. [] examples of such individuals two guards at the Pankras Sts-Pankras Prison in Prague. [] who, [] had smuggled messages in and out of the prison for some of the prisoners. He [] such fundamentally good people often became discouraged and uncooperative as the result of unjustified denunciations by Radio Free Europe.

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